

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated September 2, 2010, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claims 11 and 18 are hereby amended; and claims 14 and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 and 15-18 are currently pending, with claims 1-10 being previously withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Car et al. (U.S. Patent 6,391,378) in view of Levey et al. (U.S. patent 5,409,545) or Naoki Nemoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,284,073). Further, claims 11, 14, 15-16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Car et al. (U.S. Patent 6,391,378) in view of Levey et al. (U.S. patent 5,409,545) and Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,001,203) or Naoki Nemoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,284,073), in view of Enchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,455,099) and further Kitahara et al. (U.S. Patent 6,595,819) in view of Vinouze et al. (U.S. Patent 5,431,771).

Claims 11, 14, 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Car et al. in view of Levey et al. or Yamada et al. and Naoki Nemoto et al. in view of Enchi et al. and further Kitahara et al. in view of Vinouze et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as being based on a reference that neither describes nor suggests the novel combination of features now recited independent claims 11 and 18, as amended. For example, independent claim 1 now recites, features, "lowering a body..., wherein the lowering is performed at a first speed;...lifting up the body..., wherein the lifting is performed at a second speed, and wherein the second speed is slower than the first speed; detecting an initial value between the nozzle and the substrate when a state of the contact type switch is switched, wherein the initial value is a distance between the nozzle and the substrate when the nozzle is in contact with the substrate, and wherein the detecting the initial value is performed by a laser displacement sensor..."

In the contrast to the claimed invention, Car et al. in view of Levey et al. or Yamada et al. and Naoki Nemoto et al. in view of Enchi et al. and further Kitahara et al. in view of Vinouze

et al. fail to teach or suggest "the detecting the initial value is performed by a laser displacement sensor", and wherein "the second speed is slower than the first speed" as recited in amended claims 11 or 18.

Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that Car et al. in view of Levey et al. or Yamada et al. and Naoki Nemoto et al. in view of Enchi et al. and further Kitahara et al. in view of Vinouze et al. do not teach or suggest each and every feature recited in independent claims 11 and 18, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of independent claims 11 and 18, as amended, be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of dependent claims 15 to 17 be withdrawn at least because of their dependence on independent claim 11, and for additional features that they recite.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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